

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A chuck for use with a manual or powered driver having a rotatable drive shaft, said chuck comprising:
  - a. a generally cylindrical body member having
    - (i) a nose section having an axial bore formed therein, and
    - (ii) a tail section configured to rotate with the drive shaft of the driver;
  - b. a plurality of jaws slidably disposed within said body in communication with said nose section axial bore;
  - c. a nut disposed rotatably about but axially fixed to said body and in driving engagement with said jaws so that rotation of said nut with respect to said body drives said jaws into and out of said nose section axial bore;
  - d. a bearing disposed between said body and said nut; and
  - e. a rust resistant nosepiece secured to said body nose section, said nosepiece having a generally cylindrical sidewall and an end wall extending radially inward therefrom, said end wall defining an aperture with a diameter at least equal to that of said axial bore.
2. (Original) The chuck as in claim 1, wherein said nut is a split-nut formed in two halves.
3. (Original) The chuck as in claim 2, wherein said split nut is received in a groove formed in said body intermediate said nose section and said tail section.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~The chuck as in claim 1, further comprising~~ A chuck for use with a manual or powered driver having a rotatable drive shaft, said chuck comprising:
  - a. a generally cylindrical body member having
    - (i) a nose section having an axial bore formed therein, and
    - (ii) a tail section configured to rotate with the drive shaft of the driver;
  - b. a plurality of jaws slidably disposed within said body in communication with said nose section axial bore;

- c. a nut disposed rotatably about but axially fixed to said body and in driving engagement with said jaws so that rotation of said nut with respect to said body drives said jaws into and out of said nose section axial bore;
  - d. a bearing disposed between said body and said nut; and
  - e. a rust resistant nosepiece secured to said body nose section, said nosepiece having a generally cylindrical sidewall and an end wall extending radially inward therefrom, and
  - f. a nut retaining member axially fixed on said body for preventing movement of said nut toward said nose section of said body member, said nut retainer member having a first portion defining a first radius and a second portion defining a second radius that is larger than said first radius.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~The chuck as in claim 1, said bearing further~~ A chuck for use with a manual or powered driver having a rotatable drive shaft, said chuck comprising:
- a. a generally cylindrical body member having
    - (i) a nose section having an axial bore formed therein, and
    - (ii) a tail section configured to rotate with the drive shaft of the driver;
  - b. a plurality of jaws slidably disposed within said body in communication with said nose section axial bore;
  - c. a nut disposed rotatably about but axially fixed to said body and in driving engagement with said jaws so that rotation of said nut with respect to said body drives said jaws into and out of said nose section axial bore;
  - d. a bearing including an inner race, an outer race and bearing balls maintained therebetween[[]] , said bearing being disposed between said body and said nut; and
  - e. a rust resistant nosepiece secured to said body nose section, said nosepiece having a generally cylindrical sidewall and an end wall extending radially inward therefrom.
6. (Original) The chuck as in claim 5, said bearing further including a shroud that secures said inner and outer race together.

7. (Original) The chuck as in claim 4, wherein said nut retaining member first portion is generally cylindrical in shape.
8. (Original) The chuck as in claim 4, wherein said nut retaining member second portion is frustoconical in shape.
9. (Currently Amended) ~~The chuck as in claim 1, further including~~ A chuck for use with a manual or powered driver having a rotatable drive shaft, said chuck comprising:
  - a. a generally cylindrical body member having
    - (i) a nose section having an axial bore formed therein, and
    - (ii) a tail section configured to rotate with the drive shaft of the driver;
  - b. a plurality of jaws slidably disposed within said body in communication with said nose section axial bore;
  - c. a nut disposed rotatably about but axially fixed to said body and in driving engagement with said jaws so that rotation of said nut with respect to said body drives said jaws into and out of said nose section axial bore;
  - d. a bearing disposed between said body and said nut; and
  - e. a rust resistant nosepiece secured to said body nose section, said nosepiece having a generally cylindrical sidewall and an end wall extending radially inward therefrom, and
  - f. a first sleeve received intermediate said nut and said rust resistant nose piece, wherein said rust resistant nosepiece axially retains said first sleeve in driving engagement with said nut.
10. (Original) The chuck as in claim 9, wherein said nut rotates in conjunction with said first sleeve.
11. (Original) The chuck as in claim 9, further comprising a second sleeve located axially rearward of said first sleeve, rotationally fixed to said tail section of said body, and extending axially forward and surrounding a portion of said body.